

Vale REPF 2024/25 - officer evaluation report.

Scoring summary

Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society.

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Suggested score
VREPF2\100021	Vale and Downland Museum	Museum Decarbonisation Project	£30,953	£23,215	11
VREPF2\100019	East Challow Parish Council	East Challow to Fawler: Exploring the rural seven villages between Wantage and Uffington	£3,116	£3,116	7
VREPF2\100049	Wilts and Berks Canal Trust	Purchase of excavator	£24,000	£18,000	7
VREPF2\100053	Faringdon Town Council	Town Park Refurbishment Project	£19,206	£14,404	7
VREPF2\100073	Faringdon Town Football Club	Upgrade of finishing mower	£8,100	£8,100	6
VREPF2\100072	Letcombe Cricket Club	Electrification of Ageing Equipment	£5,599	£5,599	4
			Total Requested	£72,434	
			Total Budget	£132,008	
			Budget Remaining	£59,574	

Scoring and award matrix for REPF Grant applications

Suggested Scores	Scores: The scoring thresholds which identify what priority level the project falls into can be amended, depending on the number of applications received and potential allocation of funds to ensure maximum community benefit. As agreed by the Cabinet Member.
7 - 12	Project is recommended for funding
0 - 6	Project is not recommended for funding

Projects MUST score at least one point in the Project outputs/outcomes section in order to be recommended for funding.

Need for project.

Points		
0	No evidence of need for project has been provided	
1	Limited evidence for need for project has been provided	A small scale survey of employees or service users has been carried out.
2	Good evidence of need for project has been provided	A larger scale survey has been carried out asking the wider community
3	Detailed evidence of need for project has been provided	A full business plan or formal community consultation have been provided.
+ 1	If no other projects like this are located locally	Is there a similar facility or business within a reasonable distance or not. For example, EV charging points, will the project provide the only charging point in a village, or are there already several public charging points available in the village.

Climate Action

Points		
-1	The project will negatively impact on the council's climate agenda,	The project will have a detrimental effect on the local environment without any mitigation in place, this could be via destruction of green space and wildlife habitat, increase in greenhouse gas emissions, installation of non-energy efficient equipment, or purchase of new diesel or petrol vehicles etc.
0	The project has not considered its impact on the environment, or not provided any information in this area.	No evidence of environmental impact of the project has been provided in the application form.
1	The project will have some positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Small scale improvements such as replacing some lightbulbs with energy efficient ones, installing bike racks, implementing an energy smart meter
2	The project will have a positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Installation of EV charging points, renewable energy systems, creation of green spaces for nature, creation of new cycle paths or active travel routes.
+ 1	The organisation applying has a sustainability/climate action forward plan or strategy in place	Evidence of a climate action policy has been provided

Social Action

Points		
0	The project has no wider community benefits	The project only benefits the immediate applicants, such as a private business e.g. installation of equipment to cut costs for the business
1	The project has limited wider community benefits	The project will benefit a small number of groups or individuals, less than 50 people
2	The project has several wider community benefits	The project will benefit a large number of community groups or more than 50 people

Projects MUST score at least one point in one of the following sections.

Projects outputs/outcomes

Applications applying for **Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase productivity by over 10% and safeguard 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs safeguarded will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of new to the firm technology or process	number of firms with improved productivity
0	0 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 0 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 0% increase in productivity
1	1-5 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 1 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 1%-5% increase in productivity
2	6-10 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 2 new to firm technologies or processes	Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity
3	10+ jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 3 or more new to firm technologies or processes	Expected over 10% increase in productivity

Applications applying for **Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will create a new business and create 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs created will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs created	Number of new businesses created
1	1-5 jobs created	
2	6-10 jobs created	
3	10+ jobs created	New business created

Applications applying for **Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase user numbers by over 50% and increase perceptions of facilities by 20% it will score 3 points. The increase in perceptions will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Expected improved perceptions of facilities or amenities	Increase users of facilities or amenities
1	1-25% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	1-25% expected increase in user numbers
2	26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	26-50% expected increase in user numbers
3	50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	50% + expected increase in user numbers

Vale and Downland Museum	Ref	VREPF2\100021
Project Name: Museum Decarbonisation Project		
<p>Project Description: The Vale and Downland Museum is embarking on a decarbonisation project to improve our carbon footprint, engage with the local community and reduce our utility costs. The impact of each of these objectives will ultimately help support the long-term, all-round sustainability of the museum. In addition, we will also use this project as a springboard for building environmental responsibility into our planning going forward, taking on board ideas from the wider community and working with local partners.</p> <p>With this funding we aim to install solar panels onto the roof of the main galleries. This will be a major action that will very visibly emphasise to the public, our commitment to reducing the museum's carbon footprint. To make the most of this opportunity, we will run a programme of public engagement based on the responses to our recent community consultation on climate action at the Museum.</p> <p>Through the consultation, and wider discussions we have identified a number of local partners, including Sustainable Wantage and The Letcombe Brook Project and gained feedback on community participation activities with our local community. In addition, 85% of participants to our online survey said that they believed this work would increase their perception of the museum's facilities.</p> <p>We don't want this to be a stand-alone action, so we have planned a wider project to decarbonise the museum, which we are applying to the Climate Action Fund to help support. Whilst the installation of solar panels will allow the building to generate energy, we will only be able to work towards net-zero if we also reduce our energy consumption. Therefore we are also looking to replace our lighting and air-conditioning to make energy efficiency savings throughout the building.</p>		
Application Theme: • Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project: Vale And Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage, OX12 8GE		
Number of Staff: 20 (7.5 FTE)		
Project Start Date: 01 November 2024		Project End Date: 31 March 2025

Total project cost	£30,953
Organisation's contribution	£7,738
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£23,215
Organisation's latest bank balance	£89,345.74

Scoring

Need for Project Wide consultation through mailing lists, social media, partners and surveys	Score	3/4
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Action on Climate Emergency Solar panels leading to wider decarbonisation project of museum. Policy attached	Score	3/3
Social Action Over 50,000 visitors in last year	Score	2/2
Project Outputs "50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 1-25% expected increase in user numbers"	Score	3/3
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS This project fits with the following council objectives – Climate emergency work Local visitor economy work	Total score	11/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

Environmentally, part of the Vale and Downland Museum is a grade two listed building, originally constructed in the seventeenth century. We have identified limited ways in which we can make physical adjustments to the building to improve its energy efficiency. The main focus of this application being the installation of solar panels. Our latest annual electricity usage stands at 48541kwh (note an average detached house uses 4,153kWh). The ability to use our own generated solar energy will enable a significant reduction in our energy usage. In addition, other parts of this project will seek to reduce our energy consumption, which will also contribute to reducing our overall energy usage.

Financially, the implementation of the energy saving methods we propose throughout the decarbonisation project will lead to savings, crucial to the Museum's ability to reduce its current financial deficit. Due in large to rising costs, particularly utilities, the museum is facing an uncertain future. With the recent increase in our fixed term utilities contract, our electricity costs have increased by 75% and gas by 148%. The Trustees, staff and volunteers are working hard to implement a fundraising strategy to help increase income generate and reduce costs, and the installation of solar panels will greatly contribute to this. The overall cost of installing the solar panels is £30,953 estimated to take 8 years to recover With this grant, we will be able to benefit from the energy savings within 2 years.

We carried out a survey as part of our public consultation, which found that there is strong support for the museum to focus on including environmental sustainability (96.7% said these steps would be a benefit to the museum). Over 50% agreed that environmental activities should be included going forward.

Is there a facility or business providing a comparable service or product nearby?

In the late 1960s Dr Dick Squires came up with a scheme to turn the pre-existing Wantage Museum small display into the Vale and Downland Museum Centre and it was his dogged determination and support of the wider community that made it a reality. Now, the Museum sits at the heart of the local community and our aim is to foster a sense of belonging and a sense of place. As an independent charity, the museum works hard to maintain free entry to the galleries and also provide an extensive programme of activities for children and adults. In the last year the museum has welcomed over 50 000 people through the doors and strives to appeal to as wide a range of people as possible. The museum welcomes everyone from the tiniest tot at the fantastic toddler tunes with volunteers contributing live musical performances, to adults attending our informative talk series. We welcome schools from across the region to explore how life has changed and get hands-on with object-based activities. We offer an extensive programme of holiday activities that appeal to children and families of all ages, alongside our regular gallery activities aimed at children. We have an active Friends group who provide support and their own programme of events as well as a fantastic team of volunteers. Our volunteers share their skills, enjoy socialising and offer support to the museum in a variety of ways, showing their passion for the museum and its place within the local community.

Social Action

How many people in the wider community will the project benefit?

The project will benefit more than 50 people

Who will benefit from your project and how?

The museum has welcomed over 50 000 visitors in the last year. This ranges from tourists looking to find out about the local area, to families. However, beyond the displays, the museum offers a vast array of different forms of engagement that positively impact the lives of our local community. An example being the recent Wantage Community Hospital Community Arts Project. This involved 87 members of the local community from the hospital, local care home and secondary school, to co-create art to provide interest and engagement for staff, patients, and visitors to the hospital.

As discussed, the museum is facing financial pressure from rising costs, and without addressing this, we will no longer be able to invest time into the projects that provide added benefit, as the focus will be entirely on working to stay open.

In addition, we aim to deliver a programme of public engagement to inspire the public about our journey. We have gained support from a number of local partners, including Sustainable Wantage, The Letcombe Brook Project and Abigail Brown, Arts Development Officer, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils.

We have a successful family events programme, through which we plan to offer a family activity day on the theme of environmental sustainability. This would be open to local families, and with the grant funding, we would be able to offer free tickets (a format that is replicated by Wantage literary Festival for our October half term event).

Abigail Brown has offered to support the project through offering creative activities exploring environmental sustainability, working with local youth centre Sweatbox.

When asked what our local community would like to see us doing, the most popular initiative (77%) is to include signage in the museum to explain what we are doing to decarbonise the museum.

Action on Climate Emergency

The project is expected to make an impact on the following -

Decrease energy use, Increase energy efficiency, Improve land use, Other (please specify below)

Looking at your answers above, please describe how your project will help to achieve these actions.

A fundamental part of the project will be to increase the amount of renewable energy used by the museum, through installing solar panels.

We have received two quotes for the installation of the solar panels with the percentage estimation of solar power generation ranging from 49% to 65%. It is fantastic that we will be able to replace over half of our average energy consumption with renewable energy, and taken within the wider context of our decarbonisation project*, we will be able to increase this further by reducing our overall energy consumption through replacing our air conditioning unit and lighting (an estimated annual saving of 15755.46 kWhr = 79%).

The land use will be improved as with the installation of the solar panels, that site will be generating its own power rather than using non-renewable energy from the grid.

We also plan to deliver a community activity programme, which will provide a positive impact

through educating and engaging our audiences and future generations with the actions that we are taking. We know through the survey that we conducted that there is a high level of interest in environmental sustainability, and we will use this project and our platform within the community to build on this and give our local community the opportunity to get involved.

* We have applied for funding through the Climate Action Fund to help support this aspect of the project.

Project outcomes

Micro & small business outputs

Social Economy outputs

Civil society outcomes

50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities, 1-25% expected increase in user numbers

In fewer than 300 words, please explain how your project will meet the above outcomes.

We will be able to initiate the project as soon as the funding has been approved. The lead time for ordering the solar panels is up to 3 months, which means that we will be able to book an installation date of late 2024/early 2025, well before the scheme's deadline.

For the engagement element of the programme, we will aim to hold a family friendly day focusing on environmental sustainability in the Easter Holidays 2025. Whilst this is in April, we will have all planning and resource spending completed prior to the event and before 31st March.

Abigail Brown, Arts Development Officer, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils has offered to run a series of creative workshops working with local community groups and the museum building and collection. Again, this will be completed by 31st March 2025.

East Challow Parish Council	Ref	VREPF2\100019
Project Name: East Challow to Fawler: Exploring the rural seven villages between Wantage and Uffington		
<p>Project Description: The project involves the production of a A2 map/guide to the seven villages between Wantage and Uffington, (East and West Challow, Letcombe Regis and Bassett, Childrey, Sparsholt and Kingston Lisle/Fawler) incorporating a 1:22,000 (similar to a 2 ½ inch) map marking footpaths and other byways, items of historical, environmental and natural interest plus hostelryes, cafés, and parking opportunities with a catalogue of these assets on the reverse side of the map, with precise location and links.</p> <p>We have already engaged FourPoint Mapping (www.fourpointmapping.co.uk) to prepare and produce the document. They have extensive experience in producing similar documents for the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). I have already produced a list of 70 assets from Historic England, a Neighbourhood Plan and village guides. Text and images for each asset will be prepared with links. Two thousand copies will be distributed to museums and libraries in the main urban and travel centres in Oxfordshire, Reading, Swindon and Newbury and to the local pubs and cafés. FourPoint Mapping will also produce an online version for the villages' and Vale websites the link being included on the paper version. The online version will also include background information to the local area, including history, landscape etc and links to the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, Wild Oxfordshire and other groups. A QR code will be produced for existing footpath and byways signs, and village notice boards and which will link to the online version.</p> <p>This will contribute to an increased understanding of our local countryside, historical and natural assets for visitors to this relatively poorly explored part of Oxfordshire and to the increasing numbers of residents. Increased access to the countryside will improve physical and mental health with an appreciation of the local landscape and natural flora and fauna.</p>		
Application Theme: • Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project: The Old Vicarage, East Challow, OX129RP		
Number of Staff: 2 (1 FTE)		
Project Start Date: 01 October 2024		Project End Date: 31 March 2025

Total project cost	£3,116
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£3,116
Organisation's latest bank balance	£118,336.73

Scoring

Need for Project Limited evidence extracts of support from parish councils and a pub	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency Increased awareness of biodiversity and access to rural areas. Leaflets will include advice to residents and visitors about how to reduce effects of climate change.	Score	2/3
Social Action It will benefit residents and visitors.	Score	2/2
Project Outputs estimated increase between 26-50%	Score	2/3
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS This project fits with the following council objectives – Local visitor economy work	Total score	7/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

There is a considerable need for a complete guide and map usable by local residents and visitors to this area.

Wantage, Faringdon and the larger villages in this part of South West Oxfordshire, such as Uffington and Stanford in the Vale have guides highlighting items of historical and other interest. Some of our villages, including Childrey and East Challow have produced something similar in the past. These are not easy to access or may be out of print and the information is not available on websites. The rural landscape is rarely included and a portable guide, which would include historical, natural and other assets, combined with a map showing their location and a brief description, would be invaluable for visitors and for local residents seeking to combine walking with acquiring a greater understanding of their local area and environment. This region has increased in population by more than 20% over the last several years and many new residents do not easily and quickly find an emotional attachment to their new locality. An increased understanding could also increase the likelihood of new residents becoming involved in civic activity.

The seven parish councils have been consulted and all are supportive of this proposal, verbally in some cases. A full survey of the population has not been carried out.

Ordnance Survey produces 1:25,000 (2 ½ inches to the mile) maps, which include footpaths and byways and some assets such as churches, public houses, sites of antiquity and viewpoints but not smaller historical assets, interesting buildings etc. and these have no explanatory text which would clearly enhance value for walkers and other visitors. Combining this with the network of footpaths, byways and connections to other parishes will increase the value of this portable and online guide.

Is there a facility or business providing a comparable service or product nearby?

As indicated above there is no comparable guide/map produced covering the villages between Wantage and Uffington.

Social Action

How many people in the wider community will the project benefit?

The project will benefit more than 50 people

Who will benefit from your project and how?

Social action [286 wds]

The seven parish councils and pubs and cafes and individuals in the parishes have expressed universal support for this proposal to advertise and promote our essentially rural area which, in comparison with the towns, has a relatively low profile. Organisations including the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust, Active Travel Oxfordshire and Wild Oxfordshire have also expressed verbal support for such a guide.

Increased access to the countryside and small rural villages via the footpaths and byways should generate clear physical and mental health benefits since it is now recognised that contact with nature improves health. There would be value in a future move toward including dark skies in our villages being extended to north of the National Landscape (NL) increasing the attractiveness of our local area.

Increased use of the byways with rural access to the villages for the historical and other assets both by local residents and visitors will benefit the local economy by increased use of the pubs, cafés and small shops in the area and elsewhere including the Fox, Denchworth, accessible via the underused footbridge to the north of East Challow parish. Childrey and East and West Challow are now also accessible to disabled residents after being upgraded following much local pressure.

The potential benefits for new residents of increasing their understanding of their new landscape could also increase interest in civic activity. Increased awareness and interest in the local natural landscape and biodiversity could increase beneficial activity by residents towards improvement of the local natural environment. Improved accessibility and contact between all seven villages will promote closer relationships between the villages, which I am keen to promote.

Action on Climate Emergency

The project is expected to make an impact on the following -

Increase use of active travel, Improve biodiversity, Other (please specify below)

Looking at your answers above, please describe how your project will help to achieve these actions.

Walkers and visitors passing through these villages will become increasingly aware that this is a mainly arable farmed landscape with the negative associations with declines in numbers of insects, birds, amphibians and other wildlife. Improving biodiversity and wild biomass will contribute to reducing the local and national impact of climate change.

Increased awareness of the changes that have taken place in the landscape and biodiversity will be emphasised on both paper and online version of the guide/map. This will include areas where improvements are clearly required including the extensive arable fields with few hedgerows and the Wilts and Berks Canal and where some changes are nevertheless beginning to improve the natural environment, for example by mixed species hedge planting and plans for community orchards.

Changes in the farming environment with greater emphasis on and the move towards more sustainable farming, including farmer clusters, for example, will be mentioned in background information to make walkers and visitors aware which will give food for thought and encourage interaction with local groups, links to which will be provided, to accelerate some of these changes.

The proposal, encouraging increased access to the rural landscape, will increase awareness of what local authorities are doing towards mitigating the effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity/biomass with links provided to the county and district council websites.

Walking involves relatively little effort and has a proportionately greater personal impact on climate change. Appreciating and improving biodiversity including trees and hedges and communicating the importance of these and identifying where improvements could be made is an important part of improving the local area. How local residents and visitors can contribute to reducing the effects of climate change will also be emphasised on the title pages with links.

Project outcomes

Micro & small business outputs

Social Economy outputs

Civil society outcomes

26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities, 26-50% expected increase in user numbers

In fewer than 300 words, please explain how your project will meet the above outcomes.

This is a small project (£2716.00) estimated by FourPoint Mapping via a formal quote. This includes the costs of Cartography, Graphic design, Printing, creation of a web-friendly version and production of QR stickers FourPoint Mapping (Chas Thursfield) has a strong record of delivery on time of similar work for the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (former

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

The applicant is East Challow Parish Council which will retain responsibility for completion of the project within time and budget. The preparation and collation of assets, liaison with FourPoint Mapping and distribution will be carried out/overseen by Paul Barrow (East Challow Parish Councillor and District Councillor for these seven villages).

The deliverables will include 2,000 copies of an A2 paper version of the guide/map showing the villages, footpaths and byways and 70 numbered assets marked in their location on the map. The reverse will show the assets with photo and text and precise location. The online version will also include background information on the local landscape and its history together with information on the county and district Nature Recovery Strategy with links. The paper version will be distributed to museums and libraries in the main urban and travel centres in Oxfordshire, Reading, Swindon and Newbury.

The time scale for the project is estimated to be 6 months. This includes 2 months for generation by the applicant of text and photographs of the assets and their collation, 2 months for preparing the guide by Fourpoint Mapping and 2 months for distribution and contingencies. The applicant member of the applying parish council has a long record of large grant applications to the EU and completion of projects on time and within budget. We estimate a start date of October 1st 2024 and end date of March 31st 2025

Wilts and Berks Canal Trust	Ref	VREPF2\100049
Project Name: Purchase of excavator, to clear areas not used for decades, removing tree stumps, creating better access and to be able to dig holes in the canal silt, to understand what is in the silt from an environmental perspective.		
Project Description: We would like to purchase an excavator because at the moment the only useable excavator has to be shared across all branches of the WBCT. This means that often it is not available when required, and it also has to be transported for miles when it is finally available. The excavator is very useful for dredging and towpath clearing, to ensure that local communities have a constant access to the canal to aid physical and mental health when walking/cycling/dog-walking.		
Application Theme: • Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project: East Vale Canal Group, Polgraines, Farrington Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QY		
Number of Staff: 4 (1.68 FTE)		
Project Start Date: 03 July 2024		Project End Date: 03 February 2025

Total project cost	£24,000
Organisation's contribution	£6,000
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£18,000
Organisation's latest bank balance	£365,000

Scoring

Need for Project some evidence of need for different projects	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency "the project will lead to the creation of more green spaces for nature and blue spaces that benefit the environment."	Score	2/3
Social Action more than 50 people will benefit from increased access	Score	2/2
Project Outputs This project applied under the Micro and Small business theme, however officers consider that it fit better under the Local Civil Society. As such the project scored 2 points as it would not be unreasonable to expect 26-50% increase in perceptions of facilities or 26-50% increase in user numbers once the project is completed	Score	2/3
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS This project fits with the following council objectives – Climate emergency work Local visitor economy work	Total score	7/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

A business plan is being formally drawn up within the whole Trust, giving guidance to branches where needed. However, I do not yet have a copy of this. Apologies. However, the desperate need for an excavator has been discussed within East Vale branch work party. They have "borrowed" an excavator from Waterways Recovery Group etc when possible, but sometimes it is NOT possible, or there are quite large costs involved in moving the equipment across the county. I am attaching minutes of branch meetings discussing the urgent need for an excavator.

Is there a facility or business providing a comparable service or product nearby?

No. Wilts and Berks Canal Trust are the only organisation rebuilding and reinstating the canal and towpath. The East Vale branch of the Trust are the only ones doing the actual work involved in reinstating this heritage project in the East Vale area. Their hard work will benefit both local communities and visitors, and hopefully this will in turn benefit the local area in increased footfall generating increased income for local shops/food outlets near the canal. This in turn could create more jobs locally.

Social Action

How many people in the wider community will the project benefit?

The project will benefit more than 50 people

Who will benefit from your project and how?

Local communities will benefit from being able to walk the towpath, increasing physical and mental health. Once boats can use more of the canal, boat trips could be of interest to both families and groups. Once old canal buildings are reinstated, community and school groups would be able to use these facilities, as is happening in other areas of the Wilts and Berks canal.

Wildlife will be able to thrive again once brambles etc are cleared, using the excavator. This will be of interest to all those who wish to see East Vale's wildlife at its best. There would therefore be benefits to many groups of people.

Action on Climate Emergency

The project is expected to make an impact on the following -

Increase use of active travel, Improve biodiversity, Improve waterway health

Looking at your answers above, please describe how your project will help to achieve these actions.

Creation of safe towpath areas for those wishing to walk/run in beautiful, tranquil surroundings will benefit those wishing to be active or become more active. The excavator is very necessary to enable the work to be done to achieve this outcome.

The work of clearing areas of brambles will enable wildlife to establish new areas and encourage new wildlife to be seen.

Waterway health will obviously be improved by using the excavator to clear areas of the canal and surroundings which may have become unofficial rubbish tips over the years, and clearing areas to allow the natural ingress of water to refill the canal with clean water. This is a top priority for the Trust as a whole, and for the East Vale branch in particular.

Our draft Environment Policy is being confirmed at this time.

Project outcomes

Micro & small business outputs

Adoption of 1 new to firm technology or processes, Adoption of 2 new to firm technologies or processes, Adoption of 3 or more new to firm technologies or processes, Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity, Expected over 10% increase in productivity

Social Economy outputs

Civil society outcomes

In fewer than 300 words, please explain how your project will meet the above outcomes.

The project (to purchase an excavator) will be acted on as soon as any grant money is received, as the excavator is desperately needed. It will HAVE to be delivered by the deadline of March 2025 as much work needs to be done by then. The Chairman of the East Vale branch will be in charge of obtaining the excavator, though he will of course be able to call on the expertise of both members of other branches and also the Trust's own Engineering Director, Mr. J. Coates. The project will be delivered within the budget, in accordance with the REPF VWH terms and conditions.

Below I have provided some photographs of an excavator in use by another branch. The excavator is being used to dig trenches, and backfilling, loading dumpers and moving soil.

Faringdon Town Council	Ref	VREPF2\100053
Project Name: Town Park Refurbishment Project		
<p>Project Description: The Town Park Refurbishment Project aims to create an inviting space for both the community and visitors. FTC sees the need to create a place suitable for all year round use, where people can enjoy quiet moments, fitness activities, reading, meeting friends, and children can play. The park will feature comfortable seating areas in sunny and shaded spots to ensure it remains inviting throughout the year. It will also be a place where the community can learn about the environment and see sustainable practices, including the use of recycled materials. Measures such as planting trees and shrubs to prevent soil erosion and restoring natural habitats.</p> <p>Phase 1, the planting of a new orchard is complete.</p> <p>By offering a versatile space, the project encourages community engagement in various activities, promoting both physical fitness and relaxation. It supports community health and provides a green alternative for outdoor recreation. Transforming Town Park into a vibrant, eco-friendly space aligns with FTC's objectives to build healthier communities and address the climate emergency. Plans for ongoing maintenance will ensure the park remains a valuable community asset for years to come.</p>		
Application Theme: • Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project: Town Park, Gloucester Street, Faringdon, SN7 7BR		
Number of Staff: 13 (8.5 FTE)		
Project Start Date: 01 October 2024		Project End Date: 01 March 2025

Total project cost	£19,206
Organisation's contribution	£4,802
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£14,404
Organisation's latest bank balance	£993,642

Scoring

Need for Project Limited evidence of need for project provided, several reports on the importance of green spaces in general, but no evidence specific to this project	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency The project will have some positive impact on the councils climate agenda	Score	1/3
Social Action The project will benefit more than 50 people	Score	2/2
Project Outputs 50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 50% + expected increase in user numbers	Score	3/3
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	Total score	7/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

Discussions with the local school, which is adjacent to Town Park resulted in strong support and enthusiasm for the proposed refurbishment. There has been a huge amount of enthusiasm from members of the community as the first phase of the orchard is now complete. There is a noticeable shortage of green space in the town, where educational programs can be conducted outdoors and where individuals can engage in activities promoting mental well-being. Many workers in the town have expressed that they lack accessible spaces where they can relax during lunch breaks or other leisure times, or parents can stop with their children in a safe spot. With increasing concerns about climate change, there is a growing demand for initiatives that actively demonstrate environmental stewardship. The project seeks to incorporate sustainable practices and educational components that raise awareness about climate action and promote environmentally responsible behaviour. This has recently been demonstrated by the care that has been shown by the parents and children for the new orchard in Town Park.

Is there a facility or business providing a comparable service or product nearby?

No.

Social Action

How many people in the wider community will the project benefit?

The project will benefit more than 50 people

Who will benefit from your project and how?

The Town Park refurbishment project in Faringdon promises to benefit a variety of community members and stakeholders:

1. Local residents: The refurbishment will provide improved green space for relaxation, recreation, and exercise, enhancing the overall well-being of individuals and families. It offers a serene environment where residents can connect with nature and enjoy outdoor activities, contributing to better mental and physical health.
2. Children and families: Enhanced play areas and facilities will create a safer and more enjoyable space for children to play and families to spend quality time together outdoors. This promotes active lifestyles and strengthens family bonds, fostering a sense of community.
3. School community: The nearby school will utilise the park for educational purposes, offering opportunities to learn about trees and biodiversity. It integrates environmental education into the curriculum, enriching students' understanding of sustainability and ecology.
4. Local businesses: Improving Town Park will attract more visitors to Faringdon, potentially increasing foot traffic and benefitting local businesses such as cafes and shops. This economic boost supports the local economy and encourages business growth.
5. Community groups and clubs: The refurbished Town Park will serve as a venue for community events, cultural activities, and social gatherings. It will provide a central hub for local clubs, sports teams and social groups, fostering community engagement and strengthening social ties. It will provide an environment for fitness activities and group gatherings. This supports active living initiatives and encourages community fitness participation.
6. Environmental impact: Planting native fruit trees and enhancing green spaces will support local biodiversity, providing habitats for wildlife and promoting ecological sustainability. It improves the park's ecological balance and natural beauty.

Action on Climate Emergency

The project is expected to make an impact on the following -

Decrease use of vehicles with a combustion engine, Reduce air pollution (outdoors), Increase use of public transport, Increase use of active travel, Improve land use, Improve biodiversity, Improve soil health, Use sustainable materials, Other (please specify below)

Looking at your answers above, please describe how your project will help to achieve these actions.

1. Decrease use of vehicles with a combustion engine by providing ample bike parking and promoting walking or cycling to the park, improving pedestrian pathways, or integrating the park into local public transportation routes.
2. Reduce air pollution as the project involves planting more trees and vegetation, which can help absorb pollutants and improve air quality, especially in urban areas.
3. Increase use of public transport applies as the project encourages or facilitates greater use of public transportation options.
4. Increase use of active travel as the project encourages visitors on foot and bicycle as opposed to cars.
5. Improve land use: This applies as the project will apply sustainable land management practices that enhances land use efficiency by preserving a green space.
6. Improve biodiversity is relevant as the project contributes to preserving local biodiversity through habitat restoration and green space creation.
7. Reduce or prevent waste applies as the project aims to minimise waste generation and to implement recycling programs.
8. The use of sustainable materials will apply as environmentally friendly materials will be used as well as low-impact construction methods.
9. The project will improve soil health by incorporating organic matter, minimising compaction, and selecting appropriate plant species to enhance biodiversity and support beneficial soil organisms.
10. One further aspect that shows commitment to climate action is implementing a rainwater harvesting system.

Project outcomes

Micro & small business outputs

Social Economy outputs

Civil society outcomes

50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities, 50% + expected increase in user numbers

In fewer than 300 words, please explain how your project will meet the above outcomes.

The Town Park Refurbishment Project is carefully planned to remain within budget and meet the deadline of 1st October 2025 through a phased approach:

Project Schedule divided into three phases -

Phase 1: Establishing the orchard with native fruit trees is complete.

Phase 2: Enhancing infrastructure such as seating areas and pathways, targeted for finish by December 2024.

Phase 3: Finalising all amenities and landscaping by September 2025 deadline.

Key deliverables include:

Establishing native fruit trees to enhance biodiversity and provide fresh produce.
Creating comfortable, accessible seating areas for year-round enjoyment.
Implementing sustainable practices and nature-based solutions to enhance park resilience.
Installing educational signage and sensory planting to engage visitors and promote environmental awareness.
Developing a comprehensive maintenance plan to sustain park functionality post-completion.

Responsibilities are as follows:

The Facilities Officer oversees the project, monitors timelines, and ensures adherence to the budget.

The Facilities Officer also facilitates public outreach and involvement throughout all project phases.

Contractors and the FTC Leisure Team engage in tasks like tree planting, infrastructure construction, and landscaping.

With clearly defined phases, objectives, and assigned responsibilities, we are confident in completing the Town Park refurbishment on schedule and within budget. This initiative aims to create a sustainable and inviting public space that fosters community health and environmental stewardship for years to come.

Faringdon Town Football Club	Ref	VREPF2\100073
Project Name: Upgrade of finishing mower		
Project Description: We maintain the pitches and surrounding grounds of Tucker park. We are currently using a year old mower which rusting through and falling apart, we would like to upgrade to a more modern and reliable version		
Application Theme: • Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil soci		
Location of Project: 36 Fernham Road, Tucker Park Park Road Faringdon SN7 7BP, Faringdon, SN7 7LB		
Number of Staff: 4 (1 FTE)		
Project Start Date: 01 August 2024		Project End Date: 30 September 2024

Total project cost	£8,100
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£8,100
Organisation's latest bank balance	£12,124

Scoring

Need for Project limited evidence except photo of old mower	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency Some positive impact to environment as mower is diesel	Score	1/3
Social Action The project will benefit more than 50 people	Score	2/2
Project Outputs "26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities 26-50% expected increase in user numbers"	Score	2/3
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS This project fits with the following council objectives – Active communities work	Total score	6/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

It is self evident when operating the machine that it needs to be upgraded holes have appeared in the rusting chassis. Worn fixture make it a very noisy piece of equipment to use. The quality of cut is poor and looking at the grass condition proves this.

Is there a facility or business providing a comparable service or product nearby?

no

Social Action

How many people in the wider community will the project benefit?

The project will benefit more than 50 people

Who will benefit from your project and how?

Volunteers.
Club members.
General public.
Visiting teams.
Other local community groups.

Action on Climate Emergency

The project is expected to make an impact on the following -

Decrease use of vehicles with a combustion engine, Reduce air pollution (outdoors), Improve air quality (indoors), Improve land use, Improve soil health

Looking at your answers above, please describe how your project will help to achieve these actions.

Diesel fuel will be reduced with a lighter more efficient machine this will in turn reduce air pollution and improve air quality.
The quality of cut will improve the experience of players and the general public and encourage greater use.
Soil health will be improved causing less compaction reducing the need for aerating which will reduce machinery use and diesel consumption.

Project outcomes

Micro & small business outputs

Social Economy outputs

Civil society outcomes

26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities, 26-50% expected increase in user numbers

In fewer than 300 words, please explain how your project will meet the above outcomes.

The machinery can be provide withing six weeks of the funds being available. Once the machine is in place it will be used immediately.

Letcombe Cricket Club	Ref	VREPF2\100072
Project Name: Electrification of Ageing Equipment		
Project Description: We are a small but fast growing cricket club, in the shadow of a local county ground. We receive little support and funding and our equipment is ageing and in need of modernising. We are looking to replace our outdated square and strip mower with cleaner, battery operated mowers. Due to the increase in number of teams this year, our machinery is need more than ever and needs updating.		
Application Theme: • Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society		
Location of Project: Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground, Bassett Road, Wantage, OX12 9JU		
Number of Staff: 0 (0 FTE)		
Project Start Date: 30 September 2024		Project End Date: 01 July 2025

Total project cost	£5,599
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£0
REPF Grant Requested	£5,599
Organisation's latest bank balance	£8,903.65

Scoring

Need for Project could be 0 as no evidence of need provided however replacing the oil mower with an electric one will benefit the club and environment.	Score	1/4
Action on Climate Emergency some positive impact as mower is electric and will be kinder to the environment	Score	1/3
Social Action it will benefit the club and its users and the environment	Score	1/2
Project Outputs 1-25% increase in perception	Score	1/3
DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS This project fits with the following council objectives – Active communities work	Total score	4/12

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

As we have not had any new builds, we live within in a mile of an Oxfordshire county ground, we as a small village club are often over looked and forgotten when it comes to support and funding. But we play a vital role in providing competitive cricket to many players who do not make it into Challow's teams. We have a lot of young players who we build the confidence up in and provide them with a place to play. This makes sure more people stay in sport and stay physically active. As our club grows, we need the rest of the club to follow and this mainly means our tools to keep the pitch in its best possible shade.

We are always fundraising and attached for the next question is an example of something we have coming up. We do not have evidence for the impact other than showing that we now have more than 1 team playing in the Cherwell League, our Wednesday team but Sunday is a league of friendlies.

Is there a facility or business providing a comparable service or product nearby?

There are other cricket clubs close to us

Social Action

How many people in the wider community will the project benefit?

The project will benefit fewer than 50 people

Who will benefit from your project and how?

By having better facilities it will allow the club to continue with its steady growth. Having better pitches will allow us to host cup finals. This will then allow us to introduce more teams and hit our long term goal of starting a junior team.

Action on Climate Emergency

The project is expected to make an impact on the following -

Decrease use of vehicles with a combustion engine, Reduce air pollution (outdoors)

Looking at your answers above, please describe how your project will help to achieve these actions.

Our current mowers are both outdated. They are petrol mowers that require constant maintenance, servicing and produce a lot of smoke. Upgrading them to battery mowers will reduce the cost of having to buy fuel, be much more efficient to run and above all a lot kinder on the environment. Our club is based in a beautiful part of Oxfordshire, next to a rare chalk stream and a deer park with over 50 deer in it. We want to have as little impact on our surroundings as possible and battery is the way to go.

Project outcomes

Micro & small business outputs

Social Economy outputs

Civil society outcomes

1-25% expected increase in user numbers

In fewer than 300 words, please explain how your project will meet the above outcomes.

We are looking for a capital investment only in 2 new mowers. We will only budget for the cost of these movers, which means we will stay in budget, no matter what.

We would look to purchase the mowers as soon as we have the investment.